

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN**

KEHILAT ROMEMU CORP., on
behalf of itself and all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

NHK SPRING CO. LTD; NHK
INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION;
NAT PERIPHERAL (HONG KONG)
CO., LTD.; NAT PERIPHERAL
(DONG GUAN) CO., LTD; NHK
SPRING (THAILAND) CO., LTD.;
TDK CORPORATION;
MAGNECOMP PRECISION
TECHNOLOGY PUBLIC CO. LTD;
SAE MAGNETICS (H.K.) LTD; and
HUTCHINSON TECHNOLOGY
INC.,

Defendants.

Case No.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff Kehilat Romemu Corp. (“Plaintiff”), brings this action against Defendants NHK Spring Co. Ltd, NHK International Corporation, NAT Peripheral (Hong Kong) Co., Ltd, NAT Peripheral (Dong Guan) Co., Ltd, , NHK Spring (Thailand) Co., Ltd., TDK Corporation, Magnecomp Precision Technology Public Co. Ltd, SAW Magnetism (H.K.) Ltd, and Hutchinson Technology Inc. (collectively, “Defendants”), by and through its attorneys, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, and alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This is a class action lawsuit brought by Plaintiff on behalf of itself and a class of consumers who purchased products which contain HDD Suspension Assemblies against the dominant manufacturers and suppliers of HDD Suspension Assemblies for engaging in a years-long conspiracy to illegally raise the prices of their products to artificial levels and allocate the markets in which they sold.

2. HDD Suspension Assemblies are a critical component of hard disk drives (“HDDs”), which are used to store electronic information.

3. Assistant Attorney General Makan Delrahim of the U.S. Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Antitrust Division stated that HDD suspension assemblies are “critical to the operation and performance of electronic devices, and their impact on American consumers and business is direct and substantial.”

4. HDDs may be built into electronic devices, such as desktop and laptop computers, gaming consoles, and MP3 players, or sold as stand-alone storage devices. An HDD uses a magnetic recording head to read from and write onto a spinning disk contained in the hard drive. An HDD Suspension Assembly is an electro-mechanical component that holds a disk drive’s recording head at a microscopic distance above the drive’s disks.

5. Pursuant to their anticompetitive agreements, Defendants exchanged pricing information, including their plans for pricing quotes, which they used to

inform their negotiations with U.S. and foreign customers that purchased suspension assemblies and produced hard disk drives for sale in, or delivery to, the U.S. and elsewhere.

6. Competition authorities in the United States and other countries have been investigating Defendants' conspiracy since at least 2016.

7. As early as July 2016, the Department of Justice opened an investigation relating to HDD Suspension Assemblies. NHK Spring later disclosed that on July 26, 2016, the Department of Justice performed an on-site inspection of an NHK company.

8. In July 2019, the Department of Justice filed a one-count information in this court against NHK Spring Co. Ltd, charging the company with fixing prices for HDD Suspension Assemblies. NHK Spring agreed to plead guilty and pay a \$28.5 million criminal fine, subject to court approval.

9. In 2016, the Japanese Fair Trade Commission ("JFTC") also raided Defendants NHK Spring and TDK on suspicion that the companies were colluding in the supply of HDD components, including HDD Suspension Assemblies. In 2018, NHK Spring and one of its subsidiaries were fined ¥1.1 billion (nearly \$10 million) for fixing the prices of HDD Suspension Assemblies; TDK cooperated with the Japanese regulators.

10. South Korea and Brazilians competition authorities have also been investigating Defendants.

11. The conspiracy engaged in by Defendants and their co-conspirators was an unreasonable restraint of interstate and foreign trade and commerce in violation of state antitrust, unfair competition, and consumer protection laws.

12. As a result of Defendants' collusion and anti-competitive business practices, Plaintiff and other members of the Class have paid prices that were and are supra-competitive by a substantial amount, and which Defendants maintained during the Class Period above levels that would have prevailed under the existing supply and demand conditions, had Defendants not colluded to restrain competition. Plaintiff and members of the Class have been injured in their business and property for the period beginning at least as early as May 2008 and continuing until at least April 2016 (the "Class Period").

13. To redress the economic injury Defendants caused, Plaintiff, on behalf of itself and all others similarly situated, seeks damages under state antitrust, consumer protection, and common laws.

JURISDICTION & VENUE

14. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 of the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 because: (i) there are 100 or more class members, (ii) there is an aggregate amount in controversy exceeding

\$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and (iii) there is minimal diversity because at least one plaintiff and one defendant are citizens of different States. This court has supplemental jurisdiction over the state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

15. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they have conducted substantial business in this judicial district, and intentionally and purposefully placed products into the stream of commerce within the districts of Michigan and throughout the United States.

16. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Defendants transact business in this district, are subject to personal jurisdiction in this district, and therefore are deemed to be citizens of this district. Defendants' conduct, as described in this Complaint, was within the flow of, was intended to, and did have a substantial effect on, the interstate commerce of the United States, including this District. Moreover, the effects of Defendants' conduct on interstate trade or commerce are ongoing.

17. During the Class Period, Defendants sold HDD Suspension Assemblies in a continuous and uninterrupted flow of interstate commerce, including in this District. Defendants' conduct had direct, substantial, and reasonably foreseeable effects on interstate commerce in the United States, including in this District.

18. This Court has *in personam* jurisdiction over Defendants because they, either directly or through the ownership and/or control of their subsidiaries, *inter alia*: (a) transacted business throughout the United States, including in this District; (b) participated in selling HDD Suspension Assemblies throughout the United States, including in this District; (c) had and maintained substantial aggregate contacts with the United States as a whole, including in this District; or (d) were engaged in an anti-competitive and otherwise illegal conduct that was directed at, and had a direct, substantial, reasonably foreseeable and intended effect of causing injury to, the business or property of persons and entities residing in, located in, or doing business throughout the United States, including in this District. Defendants also conduct business throughout the United States, including in this District, and have purposefully availed themselves of the laws of the United States.

19. By reason of the unlawful conduct alleged herein, Defendants substantially affected commerce throughout the United States, causing injury to Plaintiff and members of the Class. Defendants, directly and through their agents, engaged in activities affecting all states, to restrict output and fix, raise, maintain, and/or stabilize prices in the United States for HDD Suspension Assemblies, which unreasonably restrained trade and adversely affected the market for HDD Suspension Assemblies.

20. Defendants' unlawful conduct described herein adversely affected persons and entities in the United States who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies, including Plaintiff and members of the Class.

PARTIES

Plaintiff Kehilat Romemu Corp.

21. Plaintiff Kehilat Romemu Corp. is a New York company with its principal place of business at 43 Central Park North, New York, New York 10026. Plaintiff Kehilat Romemu Corp. purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies indirectly from one or more Defendants.

The Defendants

22. Defendant NHK Spring Co. Ltd. ("NHK Spring") is a Japanese corporation with its principal place of business at 3-10 Fukuura, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama, 236-0004. NHK Spring manufactured and/or supplied HDD Suspension Assemblies during the Class Period.

23. Defendant NHK International Corporation ("NHK International") is a U.S. subsidiary of NHK Spring with its principal place of business located in this District, at 46855 Magellan Drive, Novi, Michigan 48377. NHK International supplied, serviced, and/or sold HDD Suspension Assemblies during the Class Period.

24. NAT Peripheral (Hong Kong) Co., Ltd. (“NAT Hong Kong”) is a Hong Kong-based subsidiary of NHK Spring. NAT Hong Kong manufactured and/or supplied HDD Suspension Assemblies during the Class Period.

25. NAT Peripheral (Dong Guan) Co., Ltd. (“NAT Dong Guan”) is a China-based subsidiary of NHK Spring. NAT Dong Guan Manufactured and/or supplied HDD Suspension Assemblies during the Class Period.

26. NHK Spring (Thailand) Co., Ltd. (“NHK Thailand”) is a Thailand-based subsidiary of NHK Spring. NHK Thailand manufactured and/or supplied HDD Suspension Assemblies during the Class Period.

27. TDK Corporation (“TDK Corp.”) is a Japanese corporation with its principal place of business at 2-5-1 Nihonbashi, Chu-ku, Tokyo, 103-6128. TDK Corp. manufactured and/or supplied HDD Suspension Assemblies during the Class Period.

28. Magnecomp Precision Technology Public Co. Ltd. (“MPT”) is a Thailand-based subsidiary of TDK Corp. with its principal place of business located at 162 M.5 Phaholyothin Road, T. Lamsai A. Wangnoi, Ayytthaya 13170. MPT has a technology center located in Murrieta, California. MPT manufactured and/or supplied HDD Suspension Assemblies during the Class Period.

29. SAE Magnetics (H.K.) LTD. (“SAE”) is a Hong Kong-based subsidiary of TDK Corp. with its principal place of business at 6 Science Park East Avenue,

Hong Kong Science Park, Hong Kong. SAE manufactured and/or supplied HDD Suspension Assemblies during the Class Period.

30. Hutchinson Technology Inc. (“Hutchinson”) is a U.S. subsidiary of TDK Corp. with its principal place of business located at 40 West Highland Park Drive NE, Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350. Hutchinson manufactured and/or supplied HDD Suspension Assemblies during the Class Period. In November 2015, TDK Corp. announced that it was acquiring Hutchinson. The acquisition was completed on October 6, 2016.

31. Various other persons, firms, entities, and corporations, not named as Defendants in this Complaint, have participated as co-conspirators with Defendants in the violations alleged herein, and have aided, abetted, and performed acts and made statements in furtherance of this conspiracy.

32. The true names and capacities of additional co-conspirators, whether individual, corporate, associate, or representative, are presently unknown to Plaintiff. Plaintiff may amend this Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of additional co-conspirators as they are discovered.

33. At all relevant times, other persons, firms, corporations, referred to herein as “co-conspirators,” the identities of which are presently unknown, have willingly conspired with Defendants in their unlawful scheme as described herein.

34. The acts alleged herein that were done by each of the co-conspirators were fully authorized by each of those co-conspirators, or were ordered or committed by duly authorized officers, managers, agents, employees, or representatives of each co-conspirator while actively engaged in the management, direction, or control of its affairs.

35. The wrongful acts alleged to have been done by any one Defendant or co-conspirator were authorized, ordered, or done by its directors, officers, managers, agents, employees, or representatives while actively engaged in the management, direction, or control of such Defendant's or co-conspirator's affairs.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. HDDs and Suspension Assemblies

36. An HDD is a storage device for digital content and information. HDDs can be stand-alone external storage devices or fully integrated into another piece of hardware, such as a desktop or laptop computer. HDDs store digital content of any kind. Many electronic devices require an HDD to function. Due to their widespread use, the market for HDDs is large. During the Class Period, over four billion HDDs were shipped worldwide.¹

¹ Statista, *Worldwide unit shipments of hard disk drives (HDD) from 1976 to 2002*, available at <https://www.statista.com/statistics/398951/global-shipment-figures-for-hard-disk-drives/>.

37. Within an HDD's casing are a series of disks called "platters" that store the device's data. A computer's central processing unit and motherboard communicate to a magnetic recording head within the HDD, a "read/write head," that tells the head where to move on the platter; the head then sends an electrical charge to a "sector" on the platter.

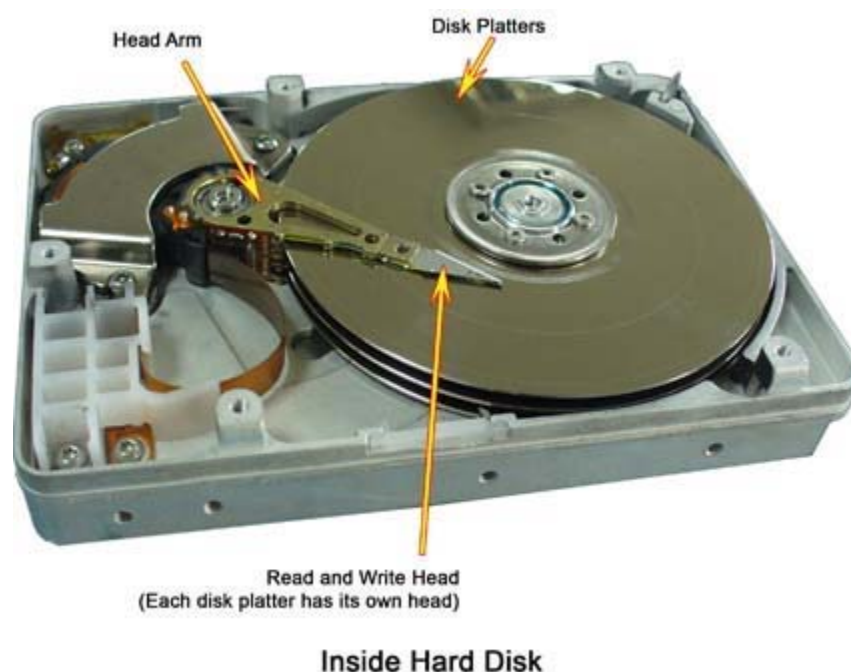


Figure 1.²

38. HDD Suspension Assemblies are electro-mechanical components that position and hold a disk drive's read/write head at microscopic distances (approximately five to eight nanometers) above the HDD's spinning platters. The

² UMass Amherst, *Hard Drives: How Do They Work?*, available at <https://blogs.umass.edu/Techbytes/2017/04/04/hard-drives-https://www.statista.com/statistics/398951/global-shipment-figures-for-hard-disk-drives/how-do-they-work/>.

distance between the read/write head and the platters is referred to as the “flying height.” A suspension assembly consists of three main components: a base plate, a load beam, and a flexure.

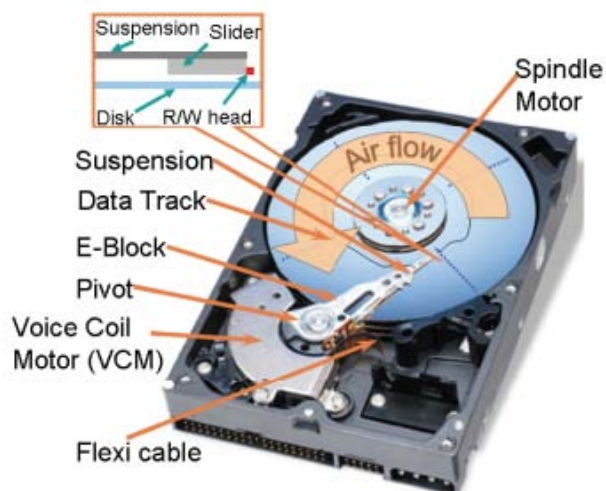


Figure 2.³

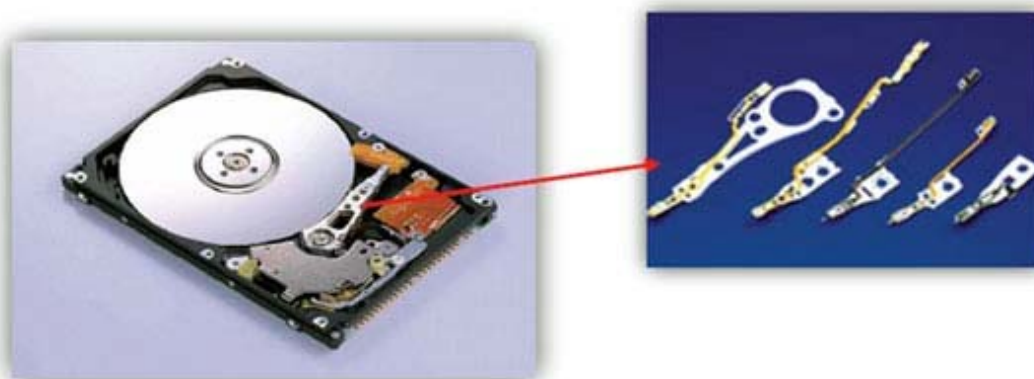


Figure 3.⁴

³ Jianbin Nie, *Control Design and Implementation of Hard Disk Drive Servos*, dissertation, available at https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/b324/e34d2cf7f7182e3d02948f7bf845f4d71df7.pdf?_ga=2.222134107.259271791.1565886310-1810127301.1565886310.

⁴ UMass Amherst, *Hard Drives: How Do They Work?*, available at <https://blogs.umass.edu/Techbytes/2017/04/04/hard-drives->

39. Manufacturers and suppliers of HDD Suspension Assemblies sell them directly to HDD manufacturers, which in turn sell HDDs containing HDD Suspension Assemblies to manufacturers of products that include HDDs, or to consumers.

B. Unlawful Price-Fixing Conspiracy and Market Allocation Agreement

40. From at least as early as May 2008 and continuing until at least April 2016, Defendants knowingly entered into and engaged in a conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition by fixing prices for HDD Suspension Assemblies sold in the United States and elsewhere.

41. To carry out their conspiracy, Defendants engaged in a variety of unlawful activities. At times, Defendants engaged in discussions and attended meeting during which they reached agreements to refrain from competing on prices for, fix the prices of, and allocate their respective market shares for, HDD suspension assemblies to be sold in the United States and globally.

42. Defendants also exchanged HDD Suspension Assemblies pricing information, including anticipated pricing quotes. Defendants used the exchanged pricing information to inform their negotiations with the United States and foreign

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/398951/global-shipment-figures-for-hard-disk-drives/how-do-they-work/>.

customers that purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies and produced hard disk drives for sale in, or delivery to, the United States and elsewhere.

43. The conspiracy engaged in by Defendants was a *per se* unlawful restraint of trade and commerce in violation of various state antitrust laws.

a. DOJ and JFTC Investigations

44. On July 26, 2016, JFTC raided the offices of TDK Corp. on suspicion that the company was in violation of antitrust laws. That same day, JFTC and Department of Justice also conducted on-site inspections of NHK Springs and NHK International based on the same suspicions:

On July 26, 2016, [NHK Spring] and NHK International Corporation, a consolidated subsidiary in the United States, underwent an on-site inspection by the Japan Fair Trade Commission and the United States Department of Justice on suspicion of violating the Antimonopoly Act of Japan and the Antitrust Law of the United States concerning trading of hard disk drive devices.⁵

45. On February 9, 2018, JFTC issued a cease and desist order and fined NHK Spring and NAT Hong Kong ¥1.1 billion (nearly \$10 million) for price-fixing HDD Suspension Assemblies. TDK Corp. and its subsidiaries avoided any financial penalty by applying for leniency and cooperating with Japanese regulators. TDK Corp.'s application for leniency, pursuant to the applicable statute, indicates an

⁵ <https://www.nhkspg.co.jp/eng/ir/pdf/Annual%20Report%202018.pdf>.

admission by TDK Corp. that it engaged in the conduct it was accused of committing.

46. On July 29, 2019, the Department of Justice filed a one-count information in this Court against NHK Spring Co. Ltd, charging the company with fixing prices on HDD Suspension Assemblies. According to the information, NHK Spring and its co-conspirators did the following for the purpose of forming and carrying out their conspiracy:

a. Engaging in discussions and attending meetings during which they reached agreements to refrain from competing prices for, fix the prices of, and allocate their respective market shares for HDD suspension assemblies to be sold in the United States and elsewhere;

b. Exchanging pricing information for HDD suspension assemblies, including anticipated pricing quotes in the United States and elsewhere;

c. Relying on their agreements not to compete and using the exchanged pricing information to inform their negotiations with U.S. and foreign customers that purchased HDD suspension assemblies and produced hard disk drives for sale in, or delivery to, the United States and elsewhere;

d. Selling HDD suspension assemblies in, or for delivery to, the United States and elsewhere at collusive and noncompetitive prices; and

e. Accepting payment for HDD suspension assemblies sold in, or for delivery to, the United States and elsewhere at collusive and non-competitive prices.

47. NHK Spring agreed to plead guilty and pay a \$28.5 million criminal fine, subject to court approval.

b. Other Governmental Investigations

48. In January 2018, it was reported that South Korea's antitrust regulator, KFTC, was investigating suspected collusion by manufacturers of HDD suspension assemblies.

49. In April 2018, Brazil's antitrust regulator, CADE, revealed that it was also investigating Defendants' conspiracy. CADE indicated that anti-competitive practices were conducted by at least 38 individuals and were implemented through meetings and e-mail exchanges.

C. The Structure and Characteristics of the HDD Suspension Assemblies Market Render the Conspiracy Plausible.

50. The structure and characteristics of the HDD Suspension Assemblies market in the United States are conducive to a price-fixing agreement. Specifically, the HDD Suspension Assemblies market: (1) is highly concentrated; (2) has high barriers to entry; and (3) exhibits inelasticity of demand.

a. The HDD Suspension Assemblies Market Is Highly Concentrated.

51. The demand for HDD Suspension Assemblies depends on the demand for HDDs, which in turn is driven by demand for storage, primarily generated by increasingly complex software.

52. Beginning in the 1980s, HDDs were incorporated into computers as well as a large section of consumer electronics appliances, such as digital video recorders, MP3 players, digital cameras, and mobile phones.

53. In the 1980s, there were more than 20 producers of HDD Suspension Assemblies. But by 2005, there were fewer than five major producers left in the market.

54. In the mid-1990s, Hutchinson became the main producer of HDD Suspension Assemblies, holding a 70% market share and generating approximately \$450 million per year in revenue.

55. In 2003, Defendants SAE and NHK Spring entered into a joint venture to form NAT Hong Kong. NAT Hong Kong engages in the manufacture of HDD Suspension Assemblies. The joint venture was terminated in April 2015, and SAE's share in NAT Hong Kong was transferred to NHK Spring.

56. By 2005, three companies—Hutchinson, NHK Spring, and MPT—collectively controlled approximately 94% of the global HDD suspension assembly

market. Hutchinson held a 55% market share, NHK Spring held a 22% market share, and MPT held a 20% market share.

57. In 2007, TDK Corp. announced its acquisition of a majority share of MPT. Following this acquisition, Defendant TDK Corp. began producing HDD Suspension Assemblies.

58. By 2012, Defendants TDK Corp., NHK Spring, and Hutchinson collectively controlled 96% of the global market.

59. In November 2015, TDK Corp. announced its acquisition of Hutchinson. The acquisition was completed in October 2016. Following the acquisition, TDK Corp.'s market share grew to 55-60% market share, and TDK Corp. noted that NHK Spring was its only competitor in the global market for HDD Suspension Assemblies.⁶

60. Throughout the Class Period, Defendants controlled approximately 90-95% of the global market for HDD Suspension Assemblies.

b. The HDD Suspension Assemblies Market Has High Barriers to Entry

61. A collusive arrangement that raises product prices above competitive levels would, under basic economic principles, attract new entrants seeking to benefit from the supra-competitive pricing. Where, however, there are significant

⁶ https://www.tdk.com/ir/ir_library/annual/pdf/2017_all.pdf.

barriers to entry, new entrants are less likely. Thus, barriers to entry help to facilitate the formation and maintenance of a cartel.

62. There are substantial barriers that preclude, reduce, or make more difficult entry into the HDD Suspension Assemblies market. A new entrant into the business would face costly and lengthy start-up costs, including multi-million dollar costs associated with manufacturing plants and equipment, energy, transportation, distribution infrastructure, skilled labor, and long-standing customer relationships.

c. There Is Inelasticity of Demand for HDD Suspension Assemblies.

63. “Elasticity” is a term used to describe the sensitivity of supply and demand to changes in one or the other. For example, demand is said to be “inelastic” if an increase in the price of a product results in only a small decline in the quantity sold of that product, if any. In other words, customers have nowhere to turn for alternative, cheaper products of similar quality and so continue to purchase despite a price increase.

64. For a cartel to profit from raising prices above competitive levels, demand must be relatively inelastic at competitive prices. Otherwise, increased prices would result in declining sales, revenues and profits, as customers purchased substitute products or declined to buy altogether. Inelastic demand is a market characteristic that facilitates collusion, allowing producers to raise their prices without triggering customer substitution and lost sales revenue.

65. Demand for HDD Suspension Assemblies is highly inelastic because there are no close substitutes for these products. In addition, customers must purchase HDD Suspension Assemblies as an essential part of an HDD—or product containing an HDD—even if the prices are kept at a supra-competitive level.

TRADE AND INTERSTATE COMMERCE

66. Defendants' anticompetitive scheme had the purpose and effect of unreasonably restraining and injuring competition by protecting HDD Suspension Assemblies from competition and has substantially affected interstate and import commerce.

67. During the Class Period, Defendants and their co-conspirators manufactured, sold and/or shipped substantial quantities of HDD Suspension Assemblies, in a continuous and uninterrupted flow of interstate commerce to customers located in states other than the states in which defendants produced HDD Suspension Assemblies.

68. Defendants manufactured HDD Suspension Assemblies outside the United States that were sold in, or for delivery to, the United States. Defendants also sold foreign-manufactured HDD Suspension Assemblies outside the United States for incorporation into products—namely HDDs—that were sold in, or for delivery to, the United States.

69. During the Class Period, HDD Suspension Assemblies and HDDs incorporating affected HDD Suspension Assemblies traveled in, and substantially affected, interstate, and import trade and commerce.

ANTITRUST INJURY

70. Defendants' price-fixing conspiracy had the following effects, among others:

- a. Price competition has been restrained or eliminated with respect to HDD Suspension Assemblies;
- b. The prices of HDD Suspension Assemblies have been fixed, raised, maintained, or stabilized at artificially inflated levels; and
- c. Indirect purchasers of HDD Suspension Assemblies have been deprived of free and open competition.

71. The markets for HDD Suspension Assemblies, HDD, and products that incorporate HDDs are inextricably linked and intertwined because the market for HDD Suspension Assemblies exists to serve other markets. Without HDDs and products that incorporate HDDs, HDD Suspension Assemblies have little to no value because they have no independent utility. Indeed, the demand for HDDs and products that incorporates HDDs creates the demand for HDD Suspension Assemblies.

72. HDD Suspension Assemblies are identifiable, discrete physical products that remain essentially unchanged when incorporated into an HDD. As a result, HDD Suspension Assemblies follow a traceable physical chain of distribution from Defendants to Plaintiff and members of the Class, and any costs attributable to HDD Suspension Assemblies can be traced through the chain of distribution to Plaintiff and members of the Class.

73. Economists recognize that any overcharge at a higher level of distribution generally results in higher prices at every level below. Professor Herbert Hovenkamp explains that “[e]very person at every stage in the chain will be poorer” as a result of the anticompetitive price at the top.” Professor Hovenkamp also states that “[t]heoretically, one can calculate the percentage of any overcharge that a firm at one distribution level will pass on to those at the next level.” Here, HDD manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers passed on the inflated prices of HDD Suspension Assemblies to Plaintiff and members of the Class.

74. During the Class Period, Plaintiff and Class Members purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies and/or products that incorporated HDD. As a result of Defendants’ anticompetitive conduct, Plaintiff and Class Members paid more than they would have absent that conduct, and thus suffered substantial damages. This is a cognizable antitrust injury and constitutes harm to competition.

75. Because Defendants' unlawful conduct has successfully restrained competition in the market for HDD Suspension Assemblies, Plaintiff and Class Members have sustained, and continue to sustain, significant losses in the form of artificial, supra-competitive prices for HDD Suspension Assemblies and/or products that incorporated HDD. The full amount of such damages will be calculated after discovery and upon proof at trial.

76. No procompetitive justification or effects outweigh the anticompetitive effects of Defendants' conduct.

77. Plaintiff and Class Members are suitable plaintiffs for pursuing antitrust claims against Defendants, insofar as they purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies during the Class Period, and thus were harmed by Defendants' anticompetitive conduct.

78. As an intended, foreseeable, and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conspiracy and acts in furtherance of their conspiracy, Plaintiff and Class Members have been injured in their business and property. The injury to Plaintiff and Class Members is the type the antitrust laws were designed to prevent and flows from Defendants' unlawful anticompetitive conduct.

PLAINTIFF'S CLAIMS ARE TIMELY

D. The Statute of Limitations Did Not Begin to Run Because Plaintiff Did Not and Could Not Discover Its Claims

79. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations set forth above.

80. Plaintiff and the members of the Class had no knowledge of the combination or conspiracy alleged herein, or of facts sufficient to place them on inquiry notice of the claims as a U.S. consumer set forth herein, until the public announcement of NHK Spring's agreement to plead guilty to the Department of Justice on July 29, 2019.

81. Plaintiff and the members of the Class are purchasers who purchased products containing HDD Suspension Assemblies manufactured and produced by Defendants. They had no direct contact or interaction with any Defendants in this case and had no means from which they could have discovered the combination and conspiracy described in this Complaint before the Department of Justice's announcement of NHK Spring's agreement to plead guilty on July 29, 2019.

82. No information in the public domain was available to Plaintiff and members of the Class prior to NHK Spring's agreement to plead guilty to the Department of Justice on July 29, 2019 that revealed sufficient information to suggest that any one of Defendants was involved in a criminal conspiracy to eliminate competition and fix prices for HDD Suspension Assemblies in the U.S. market. Plaintiff and the members of the Class had no means of obtaining any facts or information concerning any aspect of Defendants' dealings with their direct purchasers, much less the fact that they had engaged in the combination and conspiracy alleged herein.

83. For these reasons, the statute of limitations as to Plaintiff's and members of the Class's claims did not begin to run, and has been tolled with respect to the claims that Plaintiff and the members of the Class have alleged in this Complaint.

E. Fraudulent Concealment Tolled the Statute of Limitations

84. In the alternative, application of the doctrine of fraudulent concealment tolled the statute of limitations on the claims asserted herein by Plaintiff and the Class. Plaintiff and the members of the Class did not discover, and could not discover through the exercise of reasonable diligence, the existence of the conspiracy alleged herein until the public announcement of NHK Spring's agreement to plead guilty to the Department of Justice on July 29, 2019.

85. Because Defendants' agreements, understandings and conspiracies were kept secret until July 29, 2019, Plaintiff and members of the Class before that time were unaware of Defendants' unlawful conduct, and they did not know before then that they were paying supra competitive prices for HDD suspension assemblies throughout the United States during the Class Period.

86. The affirmative acts of Defendants alleged herein, including acts in furtherance of the conspiracy, were wrongfully concealed and carried out in a manner that precluded detection.

87. By its very nature, Defendants' anticompetitive conspiracy was inherently self-concealing. HDD suspension assemblies are not exempt from antitrust regulation, and thus, before July 29, 2019, Plaintiff reasonably considered it to be a competitive industry. Accordingly, a reasonable person under the circumstances would not have been alerted to begin to investigate the legitimacy of Defendants' HDD suspension assembly prices before July 29, 2019.

88. Plaintiff and the members of the Class could not have discovered the alleged contract, conspiracy or combination at an earlier date by the exercise of reasonable diligence because of the deceptive practices and techniques of secrecy employed by Defendants and their co-conspirators to avoid detection of, and fraudulently conceal, their contract, combination, or conspiracy.

89. Because the alleged conspiracy was both self-concealing and affirmatively concealed by Defendants and their co-conspirators, Plaintiff and members of the Class had no knowledge of the alleged conspiracy, or of any facts or information that would have caused a reasonably diligent person to investigate whether a conspiracy existed, until July 29, 2019, when the Department of Justice announced NHK Spring's agreement to plead guilty.

90. As a result of Defendants' fraudulent concealment of their conspiracy, the running of any statute of limitations has been tolled with respect to any claims that Plaintiff and members of the Class have alleged in this Complaint.

F. Defendants' Actions Are a Continuing Violation

91. In the alternative, this complaint alleges a continuing course of conduct (including conduct within the limitations periods), and Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to recover damages they suffered during the limitations period.

92. A cause of action accrued for Plaintiff and members of the Class each time Plaintiff or members of the Class purchased an HDD Suspension Assembly sold at a price artificially inflated by Defendants' unlawful agreement.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

93. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of itself and all others similarly situated as a class action under Rules 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on behalf of the following class:

All persons and entities that indirectly purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies from Defendants in the United States during the Class Period, including the purchase of HDD Suspension Assemblies as a stand-alone replacement product or as a component of new piece of electronic hardware, in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or any of the following states and commonwealths: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, or Wyoming.

94. The following persons and entities are excluded from the above-described proposed Class:

- (a) Defendants and their counsel, officers, directors, management, employees, subsidiaries, or affiliates;
- (b) All governmental entities;
- (c) All persons or entities who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies for purposes of resale or directly from Defendants or their affiliates;
- (d) All Counsel of Record; and
- (e) The Court, Court personnel, and any member of their immediate families.

95. Members of the Class are so numerous and geographically dispersed that joinder of all members of the Class is impracticable. Plaintiff believes that there are thousands of members of the Class widely dispersed throughout the United States. Moreover, given the costs of complex antitrust litigation, it would be uneconomic for many plaintiffs to bring individual claims and join them together.

96. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of members of the Class. Plaintiff and members of the Class were harmed by the same wrongful conduct by Defendants in that they paid artificially inflated prices for HDD Suspension Assemblies and were deprived of the benefits of competition.

97. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect and represent the interests of members of the Class. Plaintiff's interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, those of members of the Class.

98. Plaintiff is represented by counsel with experience in the prosecution of complex class action antitrust litigation.

99. Questions of law and fact common to members of the Class predominate over questions that may affect only individual members of the Class because Defendants have acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class. Such generally applicable conduct is inherent in Defendants' wrongful conduct.

100. Questions of law and fact common to the Class include:

(a) Whether Defendants and their co-conspirators engaged in a combination and conspiracy among themselves to fix, raise, maintain or stabilize the prices of HDD Suspension Assemblies sold in the United States;

(b) The identity of the participants of the alleged conspiracy;

(c) The duration of the alleged conspiracy and the acts carried out by Defendants and their co-conspirators in furtherance of the conspiracy;

(d) Whether the alleged conspiracy violated state antitrust and unfair competition law, and/or state consumer protection law;

(e) Whether Defendants unjustly enriched themselves to the detriment of the Plaintiff and members of the Class, thereby entitling Plaintiff and members

of the Class to disgorgement of all benefits derived by Defendants;

(f) Whether the conduct of Defendants and their co-conspirators, as alleged in this Complaint, caused injury to the business or property of Plaintiff and members of the Class;

(g) The effect of the alleged conspiracy on the prices of HDD Suspension Assemblies sold in the United States during the Class Period;

(h) Whether Defendants and their co-conspirators fraudulently concealed the conspiracy's existence from Plaintiff and members of the Class; and

(i) The appropriate class-wide measure of damages for the Class.

101. Class action treatment is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy. Such treatment will permit a large number of similarly-situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of evidence, effort, or expense that numerous individual actions would engender. The benefits of proceeding through the class mechanism, including providing injured persons or entities a method for obtaining redress on claims that could not practicably be pursued individually, substantially outweighs potential difficulties in management of this class action.

102. Plaintiff knows of no special difficulty to be encountered in litigating this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT I

Conspiracy and Combination in Restraint of Trade under State Law

103. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs by reference.

104. During the Class Period, Defendants and their co-conspirators engaged in a continuing contract, combination or conspiracy with respect to the sale of HDD Suspension Assemblies in unreasonable restraint of trade and commerce and in violation of the various state antitrust and other statutes set forth below.

105. The contract, combination, or conspiracy consisted of an agreement among Defendants and their co-conspirators to fix, raise, inflate, stabilize, and/or maintain at artificially supra competitive prices for HDD Suspension Assemblies and to allocate customers for HDD Suspension Assemblies in the United States.

106. Defendants' unlawful agreement harmed Plaintiff and members of the Class as set forth above.

107. There is no legitimate, non-pretextual, procompetitive business justification for the unlawful agreement.

108. Defendants' conduct violated the following state antitrust laws:

(a) Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 44-1401, et seq., with respect to purchases in Arizona by members of the Class;

(b) Cal. Bus. Code §§ 16700, *et seq.*, and Cal. Bus. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in California by members of the Class;

(c) Conn. Gen. Stat. § 35-24, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in Connecticut by members of the Class;

(d) D.C. Code Ann. §§ 28-4501, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in the District of Columbia by members of the Class;

(e) Hawaii Code § 480, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in Hawaii by members of the Class;

(f) 740 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 10 / 3, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in Illinois by members of the Class;

(g) Iowa Code §§ 553 *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in Iowa by members of the Class;

(h) Kan. Stat. Ann. §§ 50-101, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in Kansas by members of the Class;

(i) Md. Code, Com. Law § 11-201, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in Maryland by members of the Class;

(j) Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. 10, §§ 1101, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in Maine by members of the Class;

(k) Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. §§ 445.772, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in Michigan by members of the Class;

(l) Minn. Stat. §§ 325D.49, et seq., with respect to purchases in Minnesota by members of the Class;

(m) Miss. Code Ann. § 75-21-1, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in Mississippi by members of the Class;

(n) Neb. Code Ann. §§ 59-801, et seq., with respect to purchases in Nebraska by members of the Class;

(o) Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 598A, et seq., with respect to purchases in Nevada by members of the Class, in that thousands of sales of HDD Suspension Assemblies took place in Nevada;

(p) N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 356:1, et seq., with respect to purchases in New Hampshire by members of the Class;

(q) N.M. Stat. Ann. §§ 57-1-1, et seq., with respect to purchases in New Mexico by members of the Class;

(r) N.Y. Gen. Bus. L. §§ 340, et seq., with respect to purchases in New York by members of the Class;

(s) N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 75-1, et seq., with respect to purchases in North Carolina by members of the Class;

(t) N.D. Cent. Code §§ 51-08.1-01, et seq., with respect to purchases in North Dakota by members of the Class;

(u) Or. Rev. Stat. §§ 6.46.705, et seq., with respect to purchases in

Oregon by members of the Class;

(v) S.D. Codified Laws Ann. §§ 37-1, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in South Dakota by members of the Class;

(w) Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 47-25-101, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in Tennessee by members of the Class, with thousands of purchasers in Tennessee paying substantially higher prices for HDD Suspension Assemblies;

(x) Utah Code Ann. §§ 76-10-3101, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in Utah by Members of the Class who are either citizens or residents of Utah;

(y) Vt. Stat. Ann. 9, §§ 2453, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in Vermont by members of the Class;

(z) W.Va. Code §§ 47-18-3, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in West Virginia by members of the Class; and

(aa) Wis. Stat. §§ 133.03, *et seq.*, with respect to purchases in Wisconsin by members of the Class, in that the actions alleged herein substantially affected the people of Wisconsin, with thousands of purchasers in Wisconsin paying substantially higher prices for HDD Suspension Assemblies.

109. Plaintiff and members of the Class seek damages and multiple damages as permitted by law for the injuries they suffered as a result of Defendants' anticompetitive conduct.

110. Defendants are jointly and severally liable for all damages suffered by Plaintiff and members of the Class.

COUNT II

State Consumer Protection Violations

111. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs by reference.

112. Defendants engaged in unfair competition or unfair, unconscionable, deceptive or fraudulent acts or practices in violation of the state consumer protection statutes listed below. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' anticompetitive, deceptive, unfair, unconscionable, and fraudulent conduct, Plaintiff and members of the Class were forced to pay higher prices for HDD Suspension Assemblies.

113. There is gross disparity between the price that Plaintiff and members of the Class paid for HDD Suspension Assemblies compared to what they should have paid but for Defendants' unlawful conduct.

114. By engaging in the foregoing conduct, Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of the following state unfair and deceptive trade practices and consumer protection statutes:

Florida Deceptive & Unfair Trade Practices Act (“FDUTPA”)

Florida Stat. §§ 501.201, et seq.

115. The primary policy of the FDUTPA is “[t]o protect the consuming public and legitimate business enterprises from those who engage in unfair methods of competition, or unconscionable, deceptive, or unfair acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce.” Florida Stat. §§ 501.202(2).

116. A claim for damages under the FDUTPA has three elements: (1) a prohibited practice; (2) causation; and (3) actual damages.

117. Under Florida law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action under the FDUTPA.

118. Defendants’ conduct constitutes an unfair method of competition because Defendants’ agreements restrained trade in the market for HDD Suspension Assemblies by (1) suppressing and eliminating price competition for HDD Suspension Assemblies; and (2) raising and maintaining the prices that Plaintiff and members of the Class paid for HDD Suspension Assemblies to supra-competitive levels.

119. Defendants caused purchasers of HDD Suspension Assemblies in Florida to pay supracompetitive prices. Further, Defendants’ conduct had a direct and substantial impact on trade and commerce in Florida.

120. Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of Florida Stat. § 501.201, et seq., and, accordingly, Plaintiff and members of the Class seek all relief available under that statute.

Massachusetts Consumer Protection Act (“MCPA”)

Mass. Gen. L. Ch. 93A, et seq.

121. The MCPA regulates trade and commerce “directly or indirectly affecting the people of this commonwealth.” Mass. Gen. L. Ch. 93A § 9(1).

122. Under the MCPA, “[a]ny person, who has been injured by another person’s use or employment of any method, act or practice” that constitutes “[u]nfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce.” Mass. Gen. L. Ch. 93A §§ 2, 9(1). MCPA § 2(b) provides that these terms are interpreted consistent with Section 5 of the FTC Act (15 U.S.C. § 45(a)), which also prohibits “[u]nfair methods of competition in or affecting commerce, and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce.” Mass. Gen. L. Ch. 93A § 2(b); 15 U.S. § 45(a)(1).

123. Under Massachusetts law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action under the MCPA.

124. Defendants’ conduct constitutes an unfair method of competition because Defendants’ agreements restrained trade in the market for HDD Suspension Assemblies by (1) suppressing and eliminating price competition for

HDD Suspension Assemblies; and (2) raising and maintaining the prices that Plaintiff and members of the Class paid for HDD Suspension Assemblies to supra-competitive levels.

125. Defendants caused purchasers of HDD Suspension Assemblies in Massachusetts to pay supracompetitive prices. Further, Defendants' conduct had a direct and substantial impact on trade and commerce in Massachusetts.

126. Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of Ch. 93A § 2, and, accordingly, Plaintiff and members of the Class seek all relief available under that statute.

Missouri Merchandising Practices Act (“MMPA”)

Mo. Rev. Stat. 407.020

127. Under Section 407.020, the MMPA prohibits “[t]he act, use or employment by any person of any deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation, unfair practice or the concealment, suppression, or omission of any material fact in connection with the sale or advertisement of any merchandise in trade or commerce.” Mo. Rev. Stat. 407.020.

128. The Missouri Attorney General has defined an “unfair practice” as:

any practice which . . . [o]ffends any public policy as it has been established by the Constitution, statutes or common law of this state, or by the Federal Trade Commission, or its interpretive decisions; or . . . [i]s unethical, oppressive, or unscrupulous; and . . . [p]resents a risk of, or causes, substantial injury to consumers.

Mo. Att’y Gen. Reg., 15 CSR 60-8.02.

129. Under Missouri law, indirect purchasers have standing to maintain an action under the MMPA.

130. Defendants’ conduct constitutes an unfair method of competition because Defendants’ agreements restrained trade in the market for HDD Suspension Assemblies by (1) suppressing and eliminating price competition for HDD Suspension Assemblies; and (2) raising and maintaining the prices that Plaintiff and members of the Class paid for HDD Suspension Assemblies to supra-competitive levels.

131. Defendants caused purchasers of HDD Suspension Assemblies in Missouri to pay supracompetitive prices. Further, Defendants’ conduct had a direct and substantial impact on trade and commerce in Missouri. Upon information and belief, Defendants also directed advertising and marketing efforts for HDD Suspension Assemblies in Missouri.

132. Defendants have engaged in unfair competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in violation of the MMPA, and, accordingly, Plaintiff and members of the Class seek all relief available under that statute.

COUNT III

Violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act

133. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding allegations.

134. Beginning at a time unknown to Plaintiff, but at least as early as May 2008, through at least April 2016, the exact dates being unknown to Plaintiff and exclusively within the knowledge of Defendants, Defendants and their co-conspirators entered into a continuing agreement, understanding, and conspiracy to unreasonably restrain trade and commerce in the United States, in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. § 1).

135. The acts done by Defendants as a part of, and in furtherance of, their and their co-conspirators' contract, combination, or conspiracy were authorized, ordered, or done by their officers, agents, employees, or representatives while actively engaged in the management of their affairs.

136. The contract, combination, or conspiracy consisted of a continuing agreement, understanding, and concert of action among Defendants and their co-conspirators, the substantial terms of which were to fix, raise, maintain, and stabilize the prices of HDD Suspension Assemblies they sold in the United States and elsewhere.

137. The anticompetitive acts were intentionally directed at the United States market for HDD Suspension Assemblies and had a substantial and foreseeable effect on interstate commerce by raising and fixing prices for HDD Suspension Assemblies throughout the United States.

138. The conspiratorial acts and combinations have cause unreasonable restraints in the markets for HDD Suspension Assemblies.

139. As a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiff and other similarly situated indirect purchasers in the Class who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies have been harmed by being forced to pay inflated, supra-competitive prices for HDD Suspension Assemblies.

140. In formulating and carrying out the alleged agreement, understanding, and conspiracy, Defendants and their co-conspirators did those things that they combined and conspired to do, including but not limited to the acts, practices, and course of conduct set forth herein.

141. Defendants' conspiracy had the following effects, among others:

- a. Price competition in the market for HDD Suspension Assemblies has been restrained, suppressed, and/or eliminated in the United States;
- b. Prices for HDD Suspension Assemblies sold by Defendants and their co-conspirators have been fixed, raised, maintained, and stabilized at artificially high, non-competitive levels throughout the United States; and
- c. Plaintiff and members of the Class who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies indirectly from defendants and their co-

conspirators have been deprived of the benefits of free and open competition.

142. Plaintiff and members of the Class have been injured and will continue to be injured in their business and property by paying more for HDD Suspension Assemblies purchased indirectly from Defendants and their co-conspirators than they would have paid and will pay in the absence of the conspiracy.

143. The alleged contract, combination, or conspiracy is a *per se* violation of the federal antitrust laws.

144. Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to an injunction against Defendants, preventing and restraining the violations alleged herein.

COUNT IV

Unjust Enrichment

145. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the preceding allegations.

146. To the extent required, this claim is pled in the alternative to the other claims in this Complaint.

147. This claim is pled by Plaintiff and members of the Class against all Defendants.

148. Defendants have financially benefited from overcharges on sales of HDD Suspension Assemblies, which resulted from the unlawful and inequitable acts alleged in this Complaint. These overcharges were borne by Plaintiff and

members of the Class who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies. The benefits conferred upon Defendants are substantial and measurable, in that the revenues Defendants have earned due to unlawful overcharges are ascertainable by review of both sales records and the unlawful agreement itself.

149. There is gross disparity between the price that Plaintiff and members of the Class paid for HDD Suspension Assemblies compared to what they would have paid but for Defendants' unlawful and inequitable conduct.

150. Defendants repeatedly and continuously received financial benefits at the expense of Plaintiff and members of the Class through each sale of HDD Suspension Assemblies at an inflated price.

151. It would be futile for Plaintiff and members of the Class to seek a remedy from any party with whom they had or have privity of contract. Defendants have paid no consideration to any other person for any of the benefits they received indirectly from Plaintiff and members of the Class.

152. It would be futile for Plaintiff and members of the Class to seek to exhaust any remedy against the immediate intermediary in the chain of distribution from which they indirectly purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies, as those intermediaries cannot reasonably be expected to compensate Plaintiff and members of the Class for Defendants' unlawful conduct.

153. The financial benefits that Defendants derived rightfully belong to Plaintiff and members of the Class, which paid anticompetitive prices that inured to Defendants' benefit.

154. It would be inequitable under the unjust enrichment principles of the states listed below for Defendants to retain any of the overcharges that Plaintiff and members of the Class paid for HDD Suspension Assemblies, which were derived from Defendants' anticompetitive, unfair, and unconscionable methods, acts, and trade practices.

155. Defendants should be compelled to disgorge all unlawful or inequitable proceeds received by them into a common fund for the benefit of Plaintiff and members of the Class.

156. A constructive trust should be imposed upon all unlawful or inequitable sums Defendants received, which arise from overpayments for HDD Suspension Assemblies by Plaintiff and members of the Class.

157. Plaintiff and members of the Class have no adequate remedy at law.

158. By engaging in the foregoing unlawful or inequitable conduct, Defendants have been unjustly enriched in violation of the common law of various states and commonwealths, as outlined below:

Alabama

159. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Alabama at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants received money from the Class as a direct result of the unlawful overcharges and have retained this money. Defendants have benefitted at the expense of the Class from revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies. It is inequitable for Defendants to accept and retain the benefits received without compensating the Class.

Alaska

160. Defendants unlawfully overcharged Members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Alaska at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants appreciated the benefits bestowed upon them by the Class. Defendants accepted and retained the benefits bestowed upon them under inequitable and unjust circumstances arising from unlawful overcharges to the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Arizona

161. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Arizona at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants have been enriched by revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies. The Class has been impoverished by the overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies resulting from Defendants' unlawful conduct. Defendants' enrichment and the Class's impoverishment are connected. There is no justification for Defendants' receipt of the benefits causing their enrichment and the Class's impoverishment, because the Class paid supracompetitive prices that inured to Defendants' benefit, and it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain any revenue gained from their unlawful overcharges. The Class has no remedy at law.

Arkansas

162. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Arkansas at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants received money from the Class as a direct result of the unlawful overcharges and have retained this money. Defendants have paid no consideration to any other person in exchange for this money. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

California

163. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in California at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants have received a benefit from the Class as a direct result of the unlawful overcharges. Defendants retained the benefits bestowed upon them under inequitable and unjust circumstances at the expense of the Class.

Colorado

164. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Colorado at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants have received a benefit from the Class in the nature of revenue resulting from the unlawful overcharges, which revenue resulted from anticompetitive prices that inured to the benefit of Defendants. Defendants have benefitted at the expense of the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Connecticut

165. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Connecticut at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants were benefitted

in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants have paid no consideration to any other person in exchange for this benefit. Defendants retained the benefits bestowed upon them under inequitable and unjust circumstances at the expense of the Class.

Delaware

166. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Delaware at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants have been enriched by revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies. The Class has been impoverished by the overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies resulting from Defendants' unlawful conduct. Defendants' enrichment and the Class's impoverishment are connected. There is no justification for Defendants' receipt of the benefits causing their enrichment, because the Class paid supracompetitive prices that inured to Defendants' benefit, and it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain any revenue gained from their unlawful overcharges. The Class has no remedy at law.

District of Columbia

167. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in the District of Columbia at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has

conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants retained the benefit bestowed upon them under inequitable and unjust circumstances arising from unlawful overcharges to the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable and unjust for Defendants to retain such benefits.

Florida

168. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Florida at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants appreciated the benefits bestowed upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Georgia

169. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Georgia at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from

unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Hawaii

170. Defendants unlawfully overcharged Members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Hawaii at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Idaho

171. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Idaho at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants appreciated the benefit conferred upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Illinois

172. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Illinois at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants retained the benefits bestowed upon them under unjust circumstances arising from unlawful overcharges to the Class. It is against equity, justice, and good conscience for Defendants to be permitted to retain the revenue resulting from their unlawful overcharges.

Iowa

173. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Iowa at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants have been enriched by revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies, which revenue resulted from anticompetitive prices paid by the Class, which inured to Defendants' benefit. Defendants' enrichment has occurred at the expense of the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be unjust for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Kansas

174. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Kansas at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants retained the benefits bestowed upon them under unjust circumstances arising from unlawful overcharges to the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Kentucky

175. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Kentucky at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants appreciated the benefit conferred upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Louisiana

176. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who

purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Louisiana at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants have been enriched by revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies. The Class has been impoverished by the overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies resulting from Defendants' unlawful conduct. Defendants' enrichment and the Class's impoverishment are connected. There is no justification for Defendants' receipt of the benefits causing their enrichment, because the Class paid supracompetitive prices that inured to Defendants' benefit, and it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain any revenue gained from their unlawful overcharges. The Class has no other remedy at law.

Maine

177. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Maine at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants were aware of or appreciated the benefit bestowed upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to such benefits without compensating the Class.

Maryland

178. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Maryland at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants were aware of or appreciated the benefit bestowed upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Massachusetts

179. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Massachusetts at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants were aware of or appreciated the benefit conferred upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Michigan

180. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who

purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Michigan at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants have received a benefit from the Class in the nature of revenue resulting from the unlawful overcharges, which revenue resulted from anticompetitive prices that inured to the benefit of Defendants. Defendants retained the benefits bestowed upon them under unjust circumstances arising from unlawful overcharges to the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Minnesota

181. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Minnesota at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants appreciated and knowingly accepted the benefits bestowed upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Mississippi

182. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Mississippi at prices that were more

than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants received money from the Class as a direct result of the unlawful overcharges. Defendants retain the benefit of overcharges received on the sales of HDD Suspension Assemblies, which in equity and good conscience belong to the Class on account of Defendants' anticompetitive conduct. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Missouri

183. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Missouri at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants appreciated the benefit bestowed upon them by the Class. Defendants accepted and retained the benefit bestowed upon them under inequitable and unjust circumstances arising from unlawful overcharges to the Class.

Montana

184. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Montana at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from

unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Nebraska

185. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Nebraska at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants received money from the Class as a direct result of the unlawful overcharges and have retained this money. Defendants have paid no consideration to any other person in exchange for this money. In justice and fairness, Defendants should disgorge such money and remit the overcharged payments back to the Class.

Nevada

186. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Nevada at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies. Defendants appreciated the benefits bestowed upon them by the Class, for which they have paid no consideration to any other person. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

New Hampshire

187. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in New Hampshire at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants have received a benefit from the Class in the nature of revenue resulting from the unlawful overcharges, which revenue resulted from anticompetitive prices that inured to the benefit of Defendants. Under the circumstances, it would be unconscionable for Defendants to retain such benefits.

New Jersey

188. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in New Jersey at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants have received a benefit from the Class in the nature of revenue resulting from the unlawful overcharges, which revenue resulted from anticompetitive prices that inured to the benefit of Defendants. The benefits conferred upon Defendants were not gratuitous, in that they comprised revenue created by unlawful overcharges arising from unlawful overcharges to the Class. Defendants have paid no consideration to any other person for any of the unlawful benefits they received from the Class with respect to Defendants' sales of HDD Suspension Assemblies. Under the

circumstances, it would be unjust for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

New Mexico

189. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in New Mexico at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants have knowingly benefitted at the expense of the Class from revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies. To allow Defendants to retain the benefits would be unjust because the benefits resulted from anticompetitive pricing that inured to Defendants' benefit and because Defendants have paid no consideration to any other person for any of the benefits they received.

New York

190. Defendants unlawfully overcharged Members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in New York at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants have been enriched by revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies, which revenue resulted from anticompetitive prices paid by the Class, which inured to Defendants' benefit. Defendants' enrichment has occurred at the expense of the Class. It is against equity and good conscience for Defendants to be permitted to retain the revenue resulting from their unlawful overcharges.

North Carolina

191. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in North Carolina at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. The Class did not interfere with Defendants' affairs in any manner that conferred these benefits upon Defendants. The benefits conferred upon Defendants were not gratuitous, in that they comprised revenue created by unlawful overcharges arising from unlawful overcharges to the Class. The benefits conferred upon Defendants are measurable, in that the revenue Defendants have earned due to unlawful overcharges are ascertainable by review of sales records. Defendants consciously accepted the benefits conferred upon them.

North Dakota

192. Defendants unlawfully overcharged Members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in North Dakota at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants have been enriched by revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies. The Class has been impoverished by the overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies resulting from Defendants' unlawful conduct. Defendants'

enrichment and the Class's impoverishment are connected. There is no justification for Defendants' receipt of the benefits causing their enrichment, because the Class paid supracompetitive prices that inured to Defendants' benefit, and it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain any revenue gained from their unlawful overcharges. The Class has no remedy at law. Under the circumstances, it would be unjust for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Oklahoma

193. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Oklahoma at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants received money from the Class as a direct result of the unlawful overcharges and have retained this money. Defendants have paid no consideration to any other person in exchange for this money. The Class has no remedy at law. It is against equity and good conscience for Defendants to be permitted to retain the revenue resulting from their unlawful overcharges.

Oregon

194. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Oregon at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from

unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants were aware of the benefit bestowed upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be unjust for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Pennsylvania

195. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Pennsylvania at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants appreciated the benefit bestowed upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Puerto Rico

196. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Puerto Rico at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants have been enriched by revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies. The Class has been impoverished by the overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies resulting from Defendants' unlawful conduct. Defendants'

enrichment and the Class's impoverishment are connected. There is no justification for Defendants' receipt of the benefits causing their enrichment and the Class's impoverishment, because the Class paid supra competitive prices that inured to Defendants' benefit, and it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain any revenue gained from their unlawful overcharges. The Class has no remedy at law.

Rhode Island

197. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Rhode Island at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants appreciated the benefit bestowed upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

South Carolina

198. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in South Carolina at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The benefits conferred upon Defendants were not gratuitous, in that they comprised revenue created by unlawful overcharges arising from unlawful overcharges to the Class. Defendants

realized value from the benefit bestowed upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

South Dakota

199. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in South Dakota at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants have received a benefit from the Class in the nature of revenue resulting from the unlawful overcharges, which revenue resulted from anticompetitive prices that inured to the benefit of Defendants. Defendants were aware of the benefit bestowed upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable and unjust for Defendants to retain such benefits without reimbursing the Class.

Tennessee

200. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Tennessee at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants appreciated the benefit bestowed upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating

the Class. It would be futile for the Class to seek a remedy from any party with whom they have privity of contract. Defendants have paid no consideration to any other person for any of the unlawful benefits they received indirectly from the Class with respect to Defendants' sales of HDD Suspension Assemblies. It would be futile for the Class to exhaust all remedies against the entities with which the Class has privity of contract because the Class did not purchase HDD Suspension Assemblies directly from any Defendant.

Texas

201. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Texas at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. Defendants have received a benefit from the Class in the nature of revenue resulting from the unlawful overcharges, which revenue resulted from anticompetitive prices that inured to the benefit of Defendants. Defendants were aware of or appreciated the benefit bestowed upon them by the Class. The circumstances under which Defendants have retained the benefits bestowed upon them by the Class are inequitable in that they result from Defendants' unlawful overcharges for HDD Suspension Assemblies. The Class has no remedy at law.

Utah

202. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who

purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Utah at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants were aware of or appreciated the benefit bestowed upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Vermont

203. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Vermont at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants accepted the benefit bestowed upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Virginia

204. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Virginia at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from

unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants were aware of the benefit bestowed upon them. Defendants should reasonably have expected to repay the Class. The benefits conferred upon Defendants were not gratuitous, in that they constituted revenue created by unlawful overcharges arising from Defendants' illegal and unfair actions to inflate the prices of HDD Suspension Assemblies. Defendants have paid no consideration to any other person for any of the benefits they have received from the Class.

Washington

205. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Washington at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants were aware of or appreciated the benefit conferred upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

West Virginia

206. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in West Virginia at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an

economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants were aware of or appreciated the benefit bestowed upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Wisconsin

207. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Wisconsin at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants appreciated the benefit bestowed upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

Wyoming

208. Defendants unlawfully overcharged members of the Class, who purchased HDD Suspension Assemblies in Wyoming at prices that were more than they would have been but for Defendants' actions. The Class has conferred an economic benefit upon Defendants, in the nature of revenue resulting from unlawful overcharges to the economic detriment of the Class. Defendants accepted,

used and enjoyed the benefits bestowed upon them by the Class. Under the circumstances, it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain such benefits without compensating the Class.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

209. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury of all issues so triable.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of itself and members of the Class, respectfully requests that this Court:

- A. determine that the claims alleged herein may be maintained as a class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and issue an order certifying one or more Classes as defined above;
- B. appoint Plaintiff as the representative of the Class and its counsel as Class counsel;
- C. award all actual, general, special, incidental, statutory, punitive, and consequential damages and restitution to which Plaintiff and the Class members are entitled;
- D. award pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on such monetary relief;
- E. award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- F. grant such further relief that this Court deems appropriate.

Dated: August 21, 2019

Respectfully submitted,
CAFFERTY CLOBES MERIWETHER & SPRENGEL LLP

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